

Table of Contents

List of Appendices.....	ii
Introduction.....	1
Acknowledgments.....	2
Summary of Trapping Laws and Regulations.....	3
Title 14 California Code of Regulations.....	5
California Fish and Game Code.....	25
Infectious Wildlife Diseases and Parasites.....	35

Species Information

Badgers.....	67
Bats.....	70
Beavers.....	90
Bobcats.....	99
Coyotes.....	106
Foxes.....	124
Minks.....	129
Muskrats.....	132
Opossums.....	138
Raccoons.....	143
Skunks.....	150
Weasels.....	156

LIST OF APPENDICES

APPENDIX A. Special Animals.....	160
APPENDIX B. Common Gray Fox.....	165
APPENDIX C. Kit Fox.....	167
APPENDIX D. Red Fox.....	170
APPENDIX E. Guidelines for Excluding Bats.....	174
APPENDIX F. Unwanted guests: Evicting bats from human dwellings.....	176

CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME TRAPPING LICENSE EXAMINATION REFERENCE GUIDE

INTRODUCTION

This manual describes basic methods, laws, and regulations for trapping furbearers and nongame mammals and handling animals after they are trapped. This information is directed towards individuals who trap for purposes of recreation or commerce in fur or nuisance wildlife control. This manual is a comprehensive publication to assist individuals to prepare for and pass the California Department of Fish and Game (DFG) Trapping License Examination in order to obtain a DFG Trapping License.

All of the questions on the trapping license examination have been taken from this manual. The examination is designed to test one's knowledge of furbearing and nongame mammal natural history and associated health concerns and diseases, and sections in Title 14, California Code of Regulations (CCR), and the Fish and Game Code that address trapping and the take of furbearing and nongame mammals.

Until December 31, 2002, a DFG Trapping License was required only for trapping for purposes of recreation or commerce in fur. In 2002, the California legislature passed Senate Bill 1645 which became law on January 1, 2003. This new law additionally required anyone providing trapping services to trap furbearing or nongame mammals for hire or profit to obtain a California Department of Fish and Game Trapping License.

Those taking the examination for a trapping license must be aware that there are major differences in trap use regulations, depending on whether trapping is occurring to prevent property damage, or to obtain furs. Body-gripping traps are illegal for use in commercial fur or recreational application in California (see regulations). There are zones throughout California where the use of Conibear-type (kill) traps and snares, except those totally submerged, and deadfall traps are prohibited for the protection of the San Joaquin kit fox and Sierra Nevada red fox (see regulations).

The illustrations and discussions of methods and techniques for the use of body-gripping traps in this guide generally apply only when trapping for damage control; not for recreational/commercial fur trapping.

For a partial summary of trapper's requirements listed in the regulations and the Fish and Game Code, please turn to pages 3 and 4. Please keep in mind that the Trapping License Examination will test your knowledge of laws and regulations that apply to both trapping for furs and trapping to control nuisance animals.

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Important contributors were: Professor Scott Hygnstrom of the University of Nebraska's Cooperative Extension Program; Mr. Gary A. Larson (retired), Eastern Region Director, U. S. Department of Agriculture, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), Wildlife Services; and Mr. Robert M. Timm, Superintendent and Extension Wildlife Specialist, University of California, Hopland Research and Extension Center. They jointly co-edited the book, "Prevention and Control of Wildlife Damage" through which all of the specific trapping control measures were employed for key wildlife species in California. Authorized and legal trapping devices, methods, and types are detailed in the individual species accounts. A small portion of the existing text has been omitted, modified, and supplemented with additional text necessary to render the affected chapter more applicable to California.

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